delegation led by the Minister for Major and Medium Irrigation, Government of Andhra Pradesh also visited Bangalore during December, 2002 with a request to spare water from Almatti for drinking water purposes. The Government of Karnataka has informed that they would examine the request of Andhra Pradesh keeping in view the demands of their State.

Search for water in various States

764. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Times of India under the caption "Expect water emergency in 2003" dated the 11th December, 2002;

(b) whether Rajasthan, Punjab, Orissa, Maharashtra etc. would face a gruelling search for water in 2003; and

(c) the action plan for water harvesting, water literacy, better data, centralization, etc. as suggested by Agricultural scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the content of the news-item "Expect water emergency in 2003" published in Times of India.

(b) Central Water Commission is monitoring the storage position of 70 important reservoirs of the country including 3 of Rajasthan, 2 of Himachal Pradesh, 6 of Orissa and 10 of Maharashtra. Of the above, available storage as on 14.2.2003 of two reservoirs of Rajasthan, 4 of Orissa and 4 of Maharashtra are much lower than the last 10 years a storage. Two reservoirs of Himachal Pradesh which are supplying water *inter-alia to* Punjab have storage of the order of 60% of the last ten years

average storage.The post monsoon rainfall upto 31.12.2002 in the States of Rajasthan, Punjab, Orissa and Maharashtra as per information supplied by India Meteorological Department are either deficient of scanty. The overall position in these States during 2003 however shall depend upon meteorological events during the year especially during the coming monsoon period.

(c) Notwithstanding the sug-estions of Agricultural Scientists, Government of India is promoting rain water harvesting through watershed management programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting under sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of Ministry of Rural Development and in addition is also organizing training and mass awareness programmes to emphasize on the importance of rain water harvesting and its implementation. For meeting future requirements of water as a long term measure National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlining of various peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus areas to water deficit areas.

Loss due to flood in North Bihar

†765. SHRIGAYA SINGH:Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the details of the plan if any for solving the problem of floods permanently which affects and causes loss of life and property on a large scale every year in North Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): Flood management being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, funding, executing

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.